

I support media diversity

I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited. The public interest will be best served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The framers of the Constitution recognized the importance of a "free press" as opposed to a "corporated press." Current events have clearly demonstrated the power of the media and how much effect the media has on public opinion. The "War against Iraq" provides case and point, it was very apparent that the media was either being controlled by the administration or the media was almost exclusively in accord with the administration. This is not free press.

To appose rule changes is the best thing, for America, that could happen on June 2, 2003. An enlightened public makes good decisions, an ignorant public doesn't make decisions.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you.

Repectfully,
Duane M. Rhone